

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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R 242152Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3053

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: CI, PINS, SHUM

SUBJ: ANOTHER AIR FORCE TRIAL OF EXTREMISTS REVEALED

1. SUMMARY: SANTIAGO'S "LA TERCERA" CARRIED ARTICLE APRIL 24 ON TRIAL UNDERWAY BY CHILEAN AIR FORCE (FACH) OF 13 ALLEGED MEMBERS OF OUTLAWED MOVEMENT OF REVOLUTIONARY LEFT (MIR). NO PREVIOUS PUBLIC MENTION HAS BEEN MADE OF THIS TRIAL, AND NO OTHER PAPER NOTED IT. ACCORDING TO TERCERA, TRIAL BEGAN "IN MOST ABSOLUTE SECRECY" APRIL 21 AT FACH BASE "EL BOSQUE" NEAR SANTIAGO. CHECK WITH FACH INDICATES RELEASE OF NEWS ON TRIAL WAS NOT RPT NOT AUTHORIZED BY GOC, AND FACH PUBLIC RELATIONS IS TRYING TO SUPPRESS FURTHER REPORTING. END SUMMARY.

2. PREPARATIONS FOR TRIAL BEGAN IN APRIL 1974 AND CONCLUDED IN MARCH 1975, ACCORDING TO TERCERA. CHARGES INCLUDE FORMING OF ARMED GROUPS, FALSIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS, AND FABRICATION OF ARMS. ONE LIFE SENTENCE IS ASKED BY PROSECUTION, SEVERAL OF 25 OR 30 YEARS, OTHERS RANGING DOWN TO 3 YEARS. FACH SOURCES ARE QUOTED AS SAYING TRIAL SHOULD CONCLUDE AT END OF MAY.

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3. DEFENDANTS AND SENTENCES REQUESTED BY PROSECUTION ARE:

A. ARTURO VILAVELLA ARAUJO, 30, MECHANICAL ENGINEER, LIFE IMPRISONMENT ASKED.

B. ALDO FLORES DURAN, 23, STUDENT, 35 YEARS. (CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST SEN. KENNEDY, 3-20-75; CONG. DELLUMS, 2-28-75)

C. SERGIO SANTOS SENORET, 31, STUDENT, 15 YEARS. (CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST CONG. HARRISON WILLIAMS, 8-8-74)

D. JULIO CARRASCO PIRARD, 28, "ECONOMIC GRADUATE" 25 YEARS. (CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST SEN. CRANSTON, 1-16-75, CONG. GEORGE G BROWN, 7-31-74)

E. PATRICIO RIVAS HERRERA, 21, STUDENT, 15 YEARS.

F. MARIO ESPINOZA MENDEZ, 27, STUDENT, 30 YEARS.

G. FRANCISCO PIZARRO MENICO, 29, "CIVIL CONSTRUCTOR", 5 YEARS "INTERNAL EXILE" (RELEGACION -- I.E. CONFINEMENT TO SPECIFIED CITY OR TOWN)

H. RENATO ARANEDA LOAYZA, 38, NO OCCUPATION GIVEN 6 1/2 YEARS.

I. RICARDO RUZ ZUNARTU, 30, NO OCCUPATION GIVEN, 18 YEARS.

J. ROBERTO MORENO BURGOS, 37, ECONOMIST, 25 YEARS.

K. LUIS RETAMAL, 37 NO OCCUPATION GIVEN, 18 YEARS.

L. GABRIEL CANIHUANTE, 30, MECHANIC, 5 YEARS "RELEGACION".

M. JUAN OLIVARES PEREZ, NO AGE, NO OCCUPATION GIVEN, 3 YEARS "RELEGACION".

4. COMMENT: WE HAD HEARD FROM ONE OF DEFENSE LAWYERS THAT SUCH A TRIAL MIGHT BE UNDERWAY SOON. DEFENSE IS BEING CONDUCTED BY SEVERAL PROMINENT CIVILIAN ATTORNEYS, MOST OF WHOM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACTED IN APRIL-MAY 1974 FACH TRIAL OF 64 DEFENDANTS. TWO AMCIT ATTORNEYS DAVID REIN FROM WASH D.C. AND JOSE LUGO FROM NYC, CALLED AT EMBASSY APRIL 21 IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR EFFORTS TO GAIN ACCESS TO TRIAL. THEY ARE ASSOCIATED WITH NYC GROUP "CENTER FOR CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESSES", WHICH SPONSORED 1974 VISIT OF RAMSEY CLARK AND JUDGE WILLIAM BOOTH TO ATTEND PREVIOUS FACH TRIAL. WE GAVE THEM NAMES OF APPROPRIATE FACH OFFICIALS TO CALL, BUT AS OF APRIL 24 THEIR EFFORTS HAD BEEN

UNSUCCESSFUL.

5. ON BASIS OF TERCERA ARTICLE, EMBOFF CALLED FACH PUBLIC RELATIONS CHIEF TO ASK IF TRIAL COULD BE OBSERVED. FACH PR CHIEF REPLIED THAT TRIAL WAS STILL CONSIDERED SECRET BY GOC, THAT TERCERA IS BEING "CONSULTED" ABOUT PUBLISHING STORY, WHICH FACH ASSUMES CAME FROM ONE OF DEFENSE ATTORNEYS, AND THAT ACCESS TO PROCEEDINGS IS NOT POSSIBLE. FACH IS AWARE THAT STORY ON TRIAL IS NOW BEING CARRIED BY INTERNATIONAL WIRE SERVICES. FACH INDICATED CHILEAN PRESS WILL BE ASKED NOT TO GIVE FURTHER PUBLICITY TO TRIAL, UNTIL FINAL RESULTS ARE ANNOUNCED SOME TIME AFTER END OF MAY.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPT PLEASE NOTIFY INTERESTED CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES IN CASES OF FLORES, SANTOS, CARRASCO.
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